

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 3-27-57	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3-18-57
TITLE OF CASE "CHANGED" JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON SEGREGATION, HEARING, STATE OF LOUISIANA, MARCH 7-9, 1957 Information Concerning		REPORT MADE BY JULIAN A. MARTIN	TYPED BY eah
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X 5-12	

SYNOPSIS:

Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation, State of La., held hearing Baton Rouge, La., 3/7-9/57. State Senator WILLIAM A. RAINACH, Chairman of Committee. Purpose of hearings was to determine influences behind racial unrest. Witnesses who testified were: GUY BANISTER, Asst. Superintendent, PD, New Orleans, La.; JOSEPH Z. KORNFEDDER, Detroit, Mich.; LEONARD PATTERSON, Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.; MANNING JOHNSON, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. [redacted] Ohio; Sgt. HUBERT BADEAUX, Agent in Charge, Division of Intelligence Affairs, NOPD; LEANDER PEREZ, District Attorney, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, La. KORNFEDDER, PATTERSON, JOHNSON and [redacted] acknowledged they were former members of the Communist Party. Witnesses state in substance that CP has attempted and in some instances has succeeded in infiltrating Negro organizations. (u)

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NO 110-16127

DETAILS:

The title is marked "Changed" to show the complete name of captioned committee as the "Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation" and to show the dates of the hearing as March 7-9, 1957. This information ascertained during instant investigation. Previous correspondence in this matter bore the caption, "Joint Legislative Committee Hearings, State of Louisiana, March 6-8, 1957, Information Concerning, (Internal Security)." (u)

AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

On March 18, 1957, Confidential Informant NO T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past and who is [redacted] advised he heard part of the testimony given at the hearing held, by the Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation, at Baton Rouge on March 7 to March 9, 1957, inclusive; that he has heard discussion of what transpired at the hearing from persons who were in attendance; that he has also read newspaper accounts of the hearing and is of the opinion the Baton Rouge newspapers gave an accurate account of what took place at the hearing. He stated a tape recording was made of the hearing but to date he knows of no written transcript being made. He advised that State Senator WILLIAM M. RAINACH is chairman of the above-named committee. Informant stated that Radio Station WJBO in Baton Rouge broadcast the proceedings of the hearing and the testimony brought out there. (u) b7D

There is being set out below a summary of information contained in Baton Rouge newspapers concerning the hearing: (u)

The State Time of March 6, 1957, stated the 10 man Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation met in closed session at Baton Rouge to draft final plans for the open hearings, beginning on March 7, 1957, to study influences behind racial unrest; that State Senator WILLIAM M. RAINACH was head of the Committee. (u)

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The State Times of March 7, 1957, stated [redacted] the Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation; that GUY BANISTER, Assistant Superintendent, Police Department, New Orleans, Louisiana, testified JOSEPH STALIN had ordered the Communist Party to create dissention between the races in the United States; that the Communists were heading southward with the rapid expansion of industry. (u) LA

The article also stated JOSEPH Z. KORNFEDDER, of Detroit, Michigan, who acknowledged he helped organize the Communist Party in the United States in 1919, testified he headed activities among the Negro groups in the early 1920s. The State Times of March 8, 1957, quoted KORNFEDDER as testifying the Communist Party had infiltrated the NAACP but did not control it; that he estimated about half, of the approximately 600 Americans, trained for subversion in Moscow in the last 30 years, were Negroes. (u) LA

The article of March 8, 1957, stated LEONARD PATTERSON of Jamaica, Long Island, New York, ex-Communist, testified the Communists have infiltrated minority groups in the United States including Negro churches but the Negro as a body has not accepted Communism. (u) LA

MANNING JOHNSON, Washington, D. C., ex-Communist, also testified before the committee on March 8, 1957. He gave background on the Communist Party since he left it in 1940. He stated the Communists in the South favored the churches in the South because they had a cloak of respectability; that the Communists had infiltrated churches all over the black belt. JOHNSON criticized Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING of Montgomery, Alabama, terming him a "megalomaniac seeking power"; that KING's leadership of the Negroes was causing harm to the Negroes and could lead to violence and bloodshed; that some of KING's explanation of purposes were the same as those of the Communist Party. (u) LA

JOHNSON also testified that W. E. B. DUBOIS, Negro writer, was one of the NAACP founders and had long been connected with the Communist Party; that DUBOIS was recently elected to the National Committee of the Communist Party at its National Convention. (u)

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The State Times of March 9, 1957, and Morning Advocate of March 10, 1957, advised as follows concerning the testimony before the committee on March 9, 1957, the final day of the hearings: u (u)

Sgt. HUBERT BADEAUX, Agent in Charge of the Division of Intelligence Affairs, Post Department, New Orleans, Louisiana, stated he had thousands of documents to support the charge of the Communist Party's infiltration of the NAACP; that Communist literature stated the Communist Party pledged to resolutely defend the NAACP. He stated the CP was active in Louisiana and there was some activity at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He testified the Communists would infiltrate the Catholic Church. He suggested the formation of "a statewide Red-hunting group to supplement the FBI, probably as a part of the State Police." u (u)

Senator RAINACH, Chairman, said the committee would consider the suggestion of Sgt. BADEAUX and stated Louisiana should re-examine the laws set for enforcing these laws. u (u)

Mrs. [redacted] Ohio, former Communist, told of the "pitiless exploitation of the Negro people," by the Communists but added only a small percentage of the Negroes fell for the Communist party line; that Communists efforts were directed at Negro colleges and charged that [redacted] Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, was a known Communist courier; that [redacted] refused to recognize her or answer questions about Party connections in a 1950 investigation by the House un-American Activities Committee. u (u)

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District Attorney LEANDER PEREZ of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, Louisiana, testified that CLARENCE LAWS, Louisiana Field Director of the NAACP, was discharged from the Army for security reasons in that he failed to disclose associations with known Communists and membership in the Southern Conference Educational Fund and the Negro Youth Congress, Communist fronts groups. u (u)

on 3/27/57, ACS I advised Laws' discharge has been changed to delete all security connotations 61-7557-693 MET (u)

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Senator RAINACH summed up the hearings by stating, "We have shown that Communist influence working through such instruments as the NAACP is a prime cause of racial disturbances. Creation of racial uprisings against the existing order is a principal instrument of the Communist Party." u)

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INFORMANT

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REFERENCE

Bureau airtel to New Orleans dated 3-13-57 (u)
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